

Message Text

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DC/P:EFENSTERMACHER
-----077980 031826Z /46
R 031642Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 195854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO,VZ

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - INSECT ZOO

1. SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY INCLUDES AMONG EXHIBITS PERMANENT INSECT ZOO PRESENTING LIVE INSECTS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD IN SIMULATED HABITATS. FOREIGN AREA INSECTS ARE GATHERED IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD BY COOPERATING ENTOMOLOGISTS AND IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. FOR CERTAIN DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS, PERMIT LIMITS IMPORTS TO MALE SPECIMENS ONLY. UPON RECEIPT OF SEALED SHIPMENTS, SMITHSONIAN OPENS SHIPMENTS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SUPERVISION.

2. WITH BUG LIFE SPANS OFTEN RECKONED IN MONTHS AND BUG BREEDING PROGRAMS NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR DESIRABLE,
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SMITHSONIAN HAS NEED FOR REGULAR SUPPLIES FROM NATURAL BREEDING AREAS. SHIPMENTS ARE MADE IN SMALL, SEALED AND NON-BREAKABLE CONTAINERS AND TRANSIT TIME SHOULD BE OPTIMUM 5 DAYS WITH A WEEK AS MAXIMUM FOR SEALED SURVIVAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. DR. F. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ, OF THE UNIVERSIDADE CENTRAL DE

VENEZUELA IN MARACAY (HE IS FORMER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF

ENTOMOLOGY) HAS AGREED TO COLLECT INSECTS FOR SMITHSONIAN IF FORWARDING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. SMITHSONIAN WOULD PREFER TO HAVE SUCH SHIPMENTS POUCHED TO WASHINGTON WITH TELEGRAPHIC NOTICE OF EXPECTED POUCH ARRIVAL DATE SO THAT EXPEDITIOUS PICK UP CAN BE MADE BEFORE BUGS EXPIRE. SUCH SHIPMENTS WOULD BE NO MORE FREQUENT THAN MONTHLY DURING COLLECTING SEASON, AND SMITHSONIAN EXPECTS ONLY 2 OR 3 SHIPMENTS YEARLY FROM ONE LOCATION. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ WILL BE SENT PERMIT DATA ON PERMISSIBLE TYPES AND WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE THAT NO PROHIBITED INSECTS WOULD BE SENT. IN ADDITION, PACKAGES WOULD BE PREPARED BY DR. FERNANDEZ-YEPEZ IN ACCORDANCE WITH SMITHSONIAN INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDRESSED WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND SMITHSONIAN LABELS BEARING EXPLICIT HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.

4. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER EMBASSY WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. VANCE

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